

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace the second paragraph on page 3 with the following currently amended paragraph:

The main proton conducting membrane which is now used in PEFC is a fluoro-resin-based membrane comprising a perfluoroalkylene as a main skeleton and partly having a sulfonic acid group at the end of perfluorovinylether side chain. As such sulfonated fluoro-resin-based membranes there are known, e.g., Nafion (trade name) membrane (Du Pont Inc.; see US Patent ~~4,330,654~~ 3,282,875), Dow membrane (Dow Chemical Inc.; see JP-A-4-366137), Aciplex (trade name) membrane (Asahi Kasei Corporation; see JP-A-6-342665), Flemion (trade name) membrane (ASAHI GLASS COMPANY), etc.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or refund excess payments to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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